

A Guide to Rhode Island's Early Intervention Programs

EI Central Directory



June 2006



Rhode Island Department of Human Services

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THE EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM

Welcome!

We are delighted to offer this guide as a resource for your family. This guide has basic information about the Early Intervention Program, as well as information about other resources for families in Rhode Island. We want to know if this guide has been helpful. Please send any comments to: Lisa Schaffran at the RI Parent Information Network 727-4144 x 153 or schaffran@ripin.org. This guide is also available online at www.dhs.ri.gov/famchild/early_intervention.htm. Check the online version of this guide for the most updated copy.

What is Early Intervention?

Early Intervention is a voluntary program that provides early identification, services, and supports to eligible children (from birth to three years old) and their families. The purpose of Early Intervention is “to enable young children to be active and successful participants during the early childhood years and in the future in a variety of settings – in their homes with their families, in child care, in preschool programs, and in the community.”

The overall vision for what we hope children and their families achieve as a result of Early Intervention is that:

- *Children have positive social relationships*
- *Children acquire and use knowledge and skills*
- *Children take appropriate actions to meet their needs*

- *Families understand their children’s strengths, abilities, and special needs*
- *Families understand their rights within the law and effectively communicate their children’s needs*
- *Families help their children develop and learn*
- *Families have adequate social support*
- *Families access services and activities that are available to all families in their community*

Who is Eligible for EI?

Infants and toddlers from birth to age three

- ♦ experiencing developmental delays,
- ♦ with certain diagnosed conditions, or
- ♦ whose circumstances are likely to result in significant developmental problems.

A ‘developmental delay’ is when a child does not develop skills at the expected age. All children grow and learn at different rates, but most kids develop a basic set of skills by a certain age. Children who have developmental delays may have special challenges or conditions that need attention. The Early Intervention Program can help families learn how to best help their child.

When a child is referred to Early Intervention, the EI team will evaluate and assess whether or not the child is eligible.

How ‘Early Intervention’ Works

One of the key aspects of the Early Intervention Program is for parents and the EI professional staff to work together as a team. Each family will have an Early Intervention Service Coordinator. Your Service Coordinator will begin by learning about your child: the people, places and activities which are part of your child’s daily routine, what your child enjoys and what is difficult, your child’s medical history and development. Your Service Coordinator is interested in the questions and concerns you have about your child’s development. Another important aspect of Early Intervention is, as the name implies, to begin services early. When a problem or concern is identified early, the necessary services can begin.

Families are encouraged to actively participate in the Early Intervention Program and are given information in a supportive way. The EI staff is sensitive to racial, cultural and family differences and works with families one-on-one to assist them in meeting the needs of their child and family.

What’s unique about Early Intervention is that services can be provided in “natural” environments. Natural environments are the day-to-day settings, routines, and activities that young children learn best in. The reason services are provided in natural environments is so parents can be involved in helping their child learn. Family members and/or caregivers can do the actual “hands on” throughout the day, as opportunities arise, with the service providers as consultants, teachers, and coaches. Young children learn best when they are taught skills during the times and places where they need to eat, walk, or talk to people they know and love. Providing services in “natural” environments reflects the core mission of Early Intervention, which is to provide support to families so that they can help their children develop to their fullest potential.

Development of the Individualized Family Service Plan

After a child is determined eligible for Early Intervention, the Early Intervention staff and the family together design a plan call the *Individualized Family Service Plan* (IFSP). This plan outlines the child’s strengths and needs. It’s developed based on the results of an evaluation or assessment and the concerns of the family. It includes individualized strategies and supports that can be used to meet the desired outcomes or goals in the IFSP. Families are key members of the Early Intervention team that works together in the development of a plan that is workable and realistic. The plan (IFSP) is reviewed every 6 months or as needed. Families may request an IFSP review at any time and should be in agreement before any changes are made to a child’s IFSP.

Parent Consultants

Every Early Intervention Program has at least one Parent Consultant available to help families. Each Parent Consultant has had a personal experience with the Early Intervention Program and can provide families with resources, support, information, and opportunities to connect with other families in the program. Parent Consultants work closely with the EI staff and provide the “family perspective.” Their role becomes especially important to many families as they prepare to transition out of Early Intervention. Parent Consultants also survey families about their experience in EI. The information gathered assists the EI Program and the Department of Human Services in identifying opportunities for improvement at the local

and state level. If you are interested in learning more about the Parent Consultant Program, please call Lisa Schaffran at 727-4144 x153 or (800) 464-3399 x153.

RI Interagency Coordinating Council

The RI Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) is an advisory committee whose membership is appointed by the Governor of Rhode Island. The ICC provides a forum for public input from families, service providers, and other stakeholders regarding federal and state policies on the Early Intervention Program. For more information on ICC meetings, please contact, Dawn Wardyga at the RI Parents Information Network, Family Voices, 175 Main St. Pawtucket, RI 02860, 727-4144 x158 or familyvoices@ripin.org

Rhode Island Early Intervention Certified Full Providers

Anyone can make a referral to the Early Intervention Program. Families can choose their Early Intervention Provider.

Children's Friend & Services

621 Dexter Street
Central Falls, RI 02863-2603
Phone: 721-9200
Fax: 729-0010
Director of Programs: Seena Franklin
Program Manager: Michele Cameron
E-mail: mcameron@cfsri.org
Supervisor: Robin Haas

Family Service

134 Thurbers Avenue
Providence, RI 02905-4754
Phone: 331-1350
Fax: 277-3388
familyserviceri.org
VP of Community Based Programs: Linda DiPalma
Clinical Administrator: Heather Brennan
E-mail: brennanhe@familyserviceri.org
Supervisor: Jen Parsons

Family Resources Community Action

245 Main Street
Woonsocket, RI 02895-3123
Phone: 766-0900
Fax: 766-8737
Director: Darlene Magaw
E-mail: dmagaw@famresri.org
Program Mngr/Supervisor: Marcia Card
Training Coord/Supervisor: Susan Feely

Meeting Street

667 Waterman Avenue
East Providence, RI 02914-1712
Phone: 438-9500
Fax: 431-6639
Referral line: 438-9500 ext. 3324
Director : Sharon Terreault
E-mail: sterreault@meetingstreet.org
Supervisor: Margaret Neubauer
Supervisor: Deborah Kutenplon
Supervisor: Debra Clancy

Hasbro Children's Hospital

593 Eddy Street-George Clinic
Providence, RI 02903
Phone: 444-3201
Fax: 444-6115
Referral line: 444-8982
Program Administrator: Maura Taylor
Program Manager: Ellen Jacobs
E-mail: Ejacobs@lifespan.org
Supervisor: Mary Fournier

James L. Maher Center

120 Hillside Avenue
Newport, RI 02840-1227
Phone: 848-2660
Fax: 847-9459
Director: Kathleen Cross
E-mail: kathleenc@mahercenter.org
Supervisor: Sara Dionne
E-mail: ssdionne@hotmail.com

J. Arthur Trudeau Memorial Center

250 Commonwealth Avenue
Warwick, RI 02886-2752
Phone: 823-1731
Fax: 783-6846
Supervisor: Karen Ostrowsky

140 Point Judith Road, Unit 44
Narragansett, RI 02882
Phone: 783-6853
Fax: 783-6846
Supervisor: Sue Moses

Director: Ernest Van Deusen
E-mail: edeusen@kentcountyarc.org

Easter Seals, RI

5 Woodruff Avenue
Narragansett, RI 02882
Phone: 284-1000
Fax: 284-1006
VP of Children's Services: Beverly Malinowsky
Director of Programs: Kathleen Schlenz
E-mail: kschlenz@eastersealsri.com

Rhode Island Early Intervention Specialty Providers

Autism Spectrum Disorders, Behavioral Disorders, and Psychiatric Disorders

Groden Center, Inc. at the Livingston Center for Early Childhood Education

30 Livingston Street

Providence, RI 02904

Supervisor: Cindy Akers

E-mail: cakers@grodencenter.org

Phone: 525-2380 (for Cindy and referrals)

Classroom phone: 421-1895

Fax: 421-3280

Director: Leslie Weidenman

E-mail: lweidenman@grodencenter.org

86 Mount Hope Avenue

Providence, RI 02906

Phone: 274-6310 x1006

Visual Impairments

Office of Rehabilitative Services

Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired

40 Fountain Street

Providence, RI 02903

Phone: 222-2300 x423

Program Manager: Linda Hughes

E-mail: lhughes@ors.ri.gov

Resolving Disagreements

Families and Early Intervention providers have several **informal options** available to help them resolve disagreements. These include:

- Direct interventions between the family and the Early Intervention staff.
- Assistance from the Department of Human Services (DHS).

Interventions between the family and the Early Intervention staff -

This is often the first approach to resolve a disagreement. Typically this involves further communication between the family and the Early Intervention staff about ways to solve the disagreement. In an effort to develop and maintain collaborative relations with families and Early Intervention, it is recommended that families communicate with the staff person closest to the issue of concern or the Service Coordinator. If the issue is not resolved by working with the staff person, it is recommended that families contact the clinical supervisor in the program. If the disagreement is still not resolved, families may wish to meet with the program's Early Intervention Director.

Assistance from the Department of Human Services -

Staff at the Department of Human Services can assist families and Early Intervention providers by answering questions, offering information, and directly interacting with families and Early Intervention staff. Families can call the DHS Info Line at the Department of Human Services at (401) 462-5300.

For more information on resolving disagreements, see the section below on "Family Rights" under mediation and due process hearings.

Family Rights

Written Prior Notice

The Early Intervention Program must give you advance written information about any evaluations, services, or other actions affecting your child. Parents know their child best. The information you share with us will make sure that the evaluations and services are right for you. The paperwork assures that you get all the details before any activity takes place. (303.403)

Use of Parent's Native Language or Preferred Mode of Communication

It is your right to thoroughly understand all activities and written records about your child. If you prefer another language or way of communicating we will get an interpreter if possible. The Early Intervention Program wants you to understand so that you can be an informed team member and decision-maker. (303.401 and 303.403)

Parent Consent

The Early Intervention Program needs your permission to take any actions that affect your child. You will be asked to give your consent in writing before we evaluate or provide services. Be sure you completely understand the suggested activities. By being involved, you can help the early intervention program plan services that match your family's preferences and needs. The Early Intervention Program needs to explain what happens if you give your consent and if you do not give your consent. (303.404)

Confidentiality and Release of Information

The Early Intervention Program values the information you and other service and health care providers have learned about your child. We will ask others for this information, but we need your permission in writing to do so. Just as the Early Intervention Program needs your permission to get your child's records from other providers, the records that the early intervention program will develop will not be shared with anyone unless you give your written permission. (303.401-303.404)

Examine Records

You have the right to see anything in the Early Intervention record about your child and family. If you do not understand something in the record, it will be explained to you in a way you understand. (303.402)

Accept or Decline Services without Jeopardy

Along with the other members of your child's Early Intervention team, you will consider which services can best help you accomplish the outcomes that you want for your child and family. You will be asked to give your consent for those services you want. You do not have to agree to all services recommended. You can say no to some services and still get the services that you do want. If you decide to try other services at a later date, you can give your consent then. (303.405)

Mediation

If you and the Early Intervention team don't agree on plans or services, or if you have other complaints about your experience with the program, there are procedures for resolving your concerns. When informal ways of sharing your concerns don't work, you may submit a formal written complaint. Mediation will be offered as a voluntary step. A trained, impartial mediator will facilitate problem solving between you and the Early Intervention Program. If you cannot reach an agreement that satisfies you both, you can have a due process hearing to resolve your complaint. Mediation will not slow down the hearing process. (303.419)

Due Process Procedures

A due process hearing is a formal procedure that begins with a formal written complaint requesting a due process hearing. A knowledgeable and impartial person from outside the program hears your complaint and decides how to best resolve it. (303.420)

Please refer to your Family Rights and Responsibilities Booklet for more details about your rights and how to file a complaint. or call the DHS Info Line at 401-462-5300.

TRANSITION TO OTHER PROGRAMS/SERVICES

Early Childhood Transition Coordination

The Paul V. Sherlock Center on Disabilities at RI College provides support to the state’s EI programs on early childhood transition coordination through a contract with the Department of Human Services. The purpose of this project is to develop a system that supports children and their families as they transition from an Early Intervention program to public schools and/or other early care and education programs. For more information, please contact Maureen Whelan at 401-456-4735 or mwhelan@ric.edu

Some children who are eligible for Early Intervention Services also will be eligible for preschool special education services when they turn 3 years of age and Early Intervention ends. Listed below are the names of the contact people in each school system who will work with those children and families who will be transitioning to preschool special education.

Local Education Agencies (LEA)- School System Liaisons for Early Intervention Transition

<u>Town/City</u>	<u>Name / School</u>	<u>Telephone</u>
Barrington	Steven Marchetti Barrington School Department	247-3145
Bristol-Warren	Elaine Skibinski Bristol-Warren Regional School	254-5993 x 1418
Burrillville	Jerilyn Caya Autin T. Levy School	568-1340
Central Falls	Mary Silva	727-7720
Chariho	Aimee Silva Chariho School Department	315-2872
Coventry	Peg Harris Coventry Special Education	397-3187 822-9400 x277 (voice mail)
Cranston	Michelle Simpson Cranston Special Education	270-8057
Cumberland	Kathy Gibney Cumberland Preschool Center	722-4434
East Greenwich	Helen O’Hara East Greenwich Special Education	885-3300
East Providence	Jane Sylvia Meadowcrest School	433-6209
Exeter-West Greenwich	Maureen DeCrescenzo Exeter-West Greenwich Special Ed.	397-7420 x 18

<u>Town/City</u>	<u>Name / School</u>	<u>Telephone</u>
Jamestown	Beth Pinto Jamestown School Department	423-7020 x 106
Johnston	Susan Jadosz Johnston Public Schools	233-1900 x 2439
Lincoln	Marianne Strubele Lincoln School Department	726-1292
Little Compton	Ann Marie McAndrews Regional Special Education	683-3570
Middletown	Ann Marie McAndrews (see Little Compton)	683-3570
Narragansett	Susan Doboszynski Narragansett Special Services	792-9427
Newport	Susan Hatch Newport Public Schools	847-2100 x 221
New Shoreham (Block Island)	Laurel Littlefield New Shoreham School Department	466-9695
North Kingstown	Barbara Smith Fishing Cove School	268-6591
North Providence	Leslie Desjarlais N. Providence School Department	233-1100 x 131
North Smithfield	Joseph Brown N. Smithfield Pupil Personnel Services	769-5492 x 215
Pawtucket	Christine Cardosi Pawtucket Public Schools	729-6391
Portsmouth	Ann Marie McAndrews (see Little Compton)	683-3570
Providence	Mindy Marabello Christine Shreve (team 2) Hugo Gonzalez (bilingual) Helen Egarton (clinical team) Providence School Dept. Special Education	456-9132 456-9469 x238 456-9179 x234 456-9166 456-9100 456-9330
Scituate, Foster, Gloucester	Joan Osmanski West Gloucester Elementary School	568-4085
	Marilyn Lang (Clinical Support) Northwest Special Education	647-9050

<u>Town/City</u>	<u>Name/ School</u>	<u>Telephone</u>
Smithfield	Colleen Poyton Smithfield Public Schools	231-6608 (press 4)
South Kingstown	Pamela Thompson	792-9652 (press 6)
Tiverton	Ann Marie McAndrews	683-3570
Warren	Elaine Skibinski	254-5993 x 1418
Warwick	Pat Burke Lippitt Elementary School	734-3245
Westerly	Christina Allen Westerly School Department	315-1532
West Greenwich	Maureen DeCrescenzo (see Exeter)	397-7420
West Warwick	Doreen Mercurio West Warwick Special Ed.	822-8432 x 1346
Woonsocket	Mary Beth Wilcox-Ziepniewski	767-4643 x 4844

Child Outreach Screening (for children ages 3-5)

Child Outreach Screening is a program overseen by the Rhode Island Department of Education and offered through every local school district. It is available to all children ages3-5. This developmental screening looks at several areas including language, cognition, motor, speech, vision, hearing, behavior and socialization. If areas of concern are identified, a referral will be made to the families’ local school system for an evaluation to determine eligibility for preschool special education services. For more information, please contact your local Child Outreach program listed below:

<i>Barrington</i> 401-247-3145	<i>Exeter / West Greenwich / East Greenwich / South Kingstown / Narragansett / New Shoreham</i> 401-295-2888	<i>Newport</i> 401-847-2100
<i>Bristol / Warren</i> 401-254-5930	<i>East Providence</i> 401-433-6216	<i>North Kingstown</i> 401-268-6591
<i>Central Falls</i> 401-727-6177	<i>Jamestown</i> 401-423-7020	<i>North Providence</i> 401-233-1110 x131
<i>Chariho</i> 401-364-1160	<i>Johnston</i> 401-233-1900 x2439	<i>Northwest Regional: Burrillville / Foster / Gloucester North Smithfield</i> 401-647-7560
<i>Coventry</i> 401-822-9410 x249	<i>Lincoln</i> 401-726-1292	<i>Pawtucket</i> 401-729-6511
<i>Cranston</i> 401-270-8006	<i>Newport County Regional: Little Compton / Middletown Portsmouth / Tiverton</i> 401-683-3570	<i>Providence</i> 401-456-9321
<i>Cumberland</i> 401-722-4434		<i>Woonsocket</i> 401-767-4643

Rhode Island Department of Education, Office of Special Populations: 401-222-3505
For a list of the RI Department of Education liaisons to the school districts, please call 401-222-3505 or go to www.ridoe.net

RESOURCES

Evaluation & Specialty Services

Children's NeuroDevelopment Center (CNDC)

Rhode Island Hospital, George Building, 1st floor, 593 Eddy Street, Providence, RI 02903

Main number: 444-5685, Parent Consultant: Lisa Landry 444-8485

The CNDC serves families with children from birth to 21 years old. Referrals to the CNDC must be made by the child's physician on a specific referral form.

The CNDC offers evaluations of children and adolescents by a team of specialists. After completing a series of evaluations, a team of specialists meets to make a diagnosis and recommendations for treatment. This team approach allows coordination between specialists so that the whole child is considered. Children who have multiple issues may benefit from evaluation at the Children's NeuroDevelopment Center. Specialists from the following areas are involved as needed to identify the child's strengths and weaknesses: Education, Nutrition, Hearing and Speech, Occupational Therapy, Genetics, Physical Therapy, Pediatrics, Psychiatry, Neurology, Psychology, Nursing and Social Services. Consults are also available from other pediatric specialties, including neurosurgery, orthopedics, urology, and otolaryngology.

Results are discussed with the family and written reports regarding the individual child's evaluation, diagnosis, and treatment recommendations are developed. These reports are then made available to parents, and with their permission, to doctors, schools, and other agencies that may be involved with the child.

Bradley Hospital

1011 Veterans Memorial Parkway, East Providence , RI 02915, 432-1000

www.bradleyhospital.org

A private, not-for-profit hospital that serves children and adolescents who have behavioral, developmental, emotional and psychological problems. A Lifespan partner and Brown Medical School affiliate, Bradley has established itself as the national center for training and research in child and adolescent psychiatry.

Child and Adolescent Services

- Inpatient Services - ages 2 to 18
- Residential Services - ages 5 to 12
- Outpatient Services
- Emergency Services 24 hrs a day
- Crisis Services - evaluation and referral
- Developmental Disabilities Program - ages 4 to 22

Special Education at Bradley Schools

Fully certified special education schools for children, adolescents and young adults (ages 3 to 21) whose education and behavioral needs cannot be met in a regular school environment. Students benefit from the full scope of Bradley's evaluation, educational and therapeutic services. Referral is through your local school department.

CEDARR Family Centers

CEDARR stands for Comprehensive, Evaluation, Diagnosis, Assessment, Referral and Re-evaluation.

The CEDARR Family Centers (CFCs), which were developed as a result of the CEDARR initiative of the RI Children’s Cabinet and five state agencies serving children, provides services for children with special health care needs and their families. What’s unique about CEDARR Family Centers is its family-centered approach and its ability to help families at any point in the system, meaning if a child is already receiving services through their school system or privately, the CEDARR teams can offer families options and help them navigate the many programs and services available in Rhode Island. Some of the services available through CFCs include: specialty clinical evaluation, crisis intervention and care coordination assistance. CEDARR services can be paid for by the Medical Assistance Program, or by the family, depending on the situation. CEDARR Family Centers serve children from birth to age 21. Some of the services offered only through CEDARR are: Home-Based Therapeutic Services Program, Kids Connect (therapeutic child care) and Personal Assistant Services and Supports. The four CEDARR Family Centers serve families throughout the state.

About Families CEDARR Family Center, 203 Concord Street, Suite 335, Pawtucket, RI 02860
365-6855

Satellite Office 1
1 Cumberland Street, 4th Floor
Woonsocket, RI 02895
671-6533

Satellite Office 2
1 Frank Coelho Drive
Portsmouth, RI 02871
683-3570

Families First CEDARR
Hasbro Hospital, Room 120, 593 Eddy Street , Providence, RI 02903
444-7703

Family Solutions CEDARR
134 Thurbers Avenue, Suite 102, Providence, RI 02905
461-4351 or (800) 640-7283

Satellite Office
Lafayette Mills-610 Ten Rod Road, Unit 13
North Kingstown, RI 02852

Empowered Families CEDARR
82 Pond Street, Pawtucket, RI 02860
365-6103 or 888-881-6380

Rhode Island Hearing Assessment Program (RIHAP)

Universal Newborn Hearing Screening, Women and Infants Hospital, 100 Dudley Street, Suite 2
Providence, RI 02905 277-3700 voice/relay 277-3701 TDD email: rihap@wihri.org

Rhode Island requires that all newborns have a hearing screening prior to leaving the hospital. Most babies pass the screening test. For those that fail the screening test or pass but require monitoring, the family is given a list of audiologists in RI and nearby CT and MA to follow-up with. Calls from parents who have infants over 2 months of age are usually referred to the Audiology Clinic at Women & Infants Hospital (see below).

Audiology Clinic at Women & Infants Hospital

134 Thurbers Avenue, Suite 215, Providence, RI 02905 453-7751

Provides audiology testing & services for infants older than 2 months. This clinic also provides services and treatment for children and adults & referrals to audiologists in RI and nearby CT & MA.

Rhode Island School for the Deaf - Hearing Center

One Corliss Park
Providence, RI 02908
222-7428

Provides hearing assessments for children over 3 years of age. There is no cost to families for this service.

RI Services for the Blind & Visually Impaired

Office of Rehabilitative Services
RI Department of Human Services
40 Fountain Street
Providence, RI 02903
222-2300 (272-8090 Spanish; 421-7016 TDD)
www.ors.ri.gov

Provides the following services for children (birth to 3 years of age):

- Case management services to assist the family with transition from Early Intervention to school;
- Functional vision evaluations;
- Coordination with a teacher from the RI Vision Education & Services Program (see below); and
- Assistance with purchasing low vision equipment or adaptive aids, if appropriate.

RI Services for the Blind & Visually Impaired also serve older children and adults.

RI Vision Education & Services Program

Paul Sherlock Center on Disabilities
Rhode Island College
456-8910

Provides a teacher who is specially trained to work with children (from birth to 3 years of age) who are blind or visually impaired. This teacher coordinates with the RI Services for the Blind & Visually Impaired Program (see above) and consults with all of Rhode Island's Early Intervention Programs. In addition to the birth to 3 age group, this program also provides services and supports to children up to age 21.

Community Asthma Programs of Hasbro Children's Hospital

Rhode Island Hospital
593 Eddy Street, P.O. 438
Providence, RI 02903
Main number: 444-8340
Parent Consultant: Lisa LeTang 444-7934

The goal of the Community Asthma Programs is to assist families in developing the knowledge, motivation, and skills to advocate for their children's health and successfully manage asthma. Their current projects include: the CVS Draw A Breath Program, the School Asthma Partnerships, Asthma Support Groups, and a camp for children with asthma.

Support Groups & Programs

Rhode Island Parent Information Network (RIPIN)

175 Main Street
Pawtucket, RI 02860
727-4144 or (800) 464-3399 - toll free in RI only
TDD: 727-4151

www.ripin.org

RIPIN provides information, referral, and support for all families - whether or not their children have special needs. Workshops are offered on parenting, special education, early interventions and transitions from one service system to another. RIPIN provides information and support about early intervention programs, home visiting programs for young children, as well as individual advocacy and support for health and special education issues. RIPIN can provide a listing of statewide support groups. RIPIN also has a lending library of books, videotapes, and audiotapes on various topics of interest to families of children with special needs and typically developing children.

Family to Family (a RIPIN program)

www.rifamilytofamily.net Barbara Torres 727-4144 x141 email: torres@ripin.org

Family to Family connects families of children and adults with special needs with other families who have similar needs and experiences. This gives families the opportunity to share information and support and get information on local, state, and national resources for families.

Family Voices of Rhode Island (a RIPIN program)

www.ripin.org Dawn Wardyga, Program Director, 727-4144 x158 or familyvoices@ripin.org

Family Voices of Rhode Island offers health information, advocacy, training and support to help families learn about their child's illness or disability and ultimately seek positive outcomes for their child and family. Family Voices is part of a national network of families and friends of children with disabilities and/or chronic illnesses.

Family Outreach Program

Rhode Island Department of Health
3 Capitol Hill, Room 302
Providence, RI 02908
222-4308

www.health.ri.gov

The Family Outreach Program is a home visiting program for new parents. Nurses visit parents in their home and can provide information and support and/or community referrals on basic needs, safety, and general parenting issues.

The Children's Network

620 Potters Avenue, Providence, RI 02907
223-0392

www.meetingstreet.org

The Children's Network is a collaborative partnership that was formed to provide comprehensive services for children of all abilities, ages 3 to pre-kindergarten, and their families at specific childcare facilities in Providence. The Network is a service of Meeting Street School in partnership with Federal Hill House Association, The Genesis Center, John Hope Settlement House, West End Community Center, Beautiful Beginnings, and other family childcare providers. The Children's Network offers mental health services, health and dental care, social services and educational programs at no cost to families. The Children's Network brings services directly to children, families and teachers at the partner childcare centers, minimizing transportation and scheduling issues. Through the Network, families have access to an education coordinator, health consultant, mental health specialist, nutritionist and family

advocate. The ultimate goal of all these services is to ensure the children are prepared to enroll and succeed in kindergarten.

Child Opportunity Zone Family Centers

Child Opportunity Zone (COZ) are located at or near a school where families can have access to health, education and social services. COZ’s help families get before- and after-school child care services, education enrichment, adult education, preventive health and safety information, health screening and referrals, and education programs. For more information in your community, see below:

Bristol/ Warren

Myra Webster 245-2461

North Kingstown

Pam Flowers...541-6340 or 268-6435

Central Falls

Jackie Parra 727-6177 x206

Pawtucket

Mary Parella 729-6293

Cranston

Maureen Greaves 270-8078

Providence

Amelia Allard 273-8866 x155

Middletown

Kristen Pachico 418-0071

Westerly

Sally Mitchell, Cheryl Watson 596-6856

Newport

Christine Arouth 845-8579 x23

Woonsocket

Terry Curtin 766-3384

Vulnerable Infants Programs (VIP)

50 Holden Street
Providence, RI 02908
276-7887

The Vulnerable Infants Program provides care coordination and support for drug or alcohol exposed infants and their families. The program is designed to improve the community’s ability to manage cases of drug-exposed children at risk for compromised development and to provide the earliest and best intervention for these infants.

The Autism Project of Rhode Island

51 Sockanosset Crossroads, Suite A
Cranston, RI 02920
785-2666

www.theautismproject.org

The Autism Project is a group of dedicated parents and professionals whose mission is to create a comprehensive system of services to support individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) and their families. Activities include: training for parents and professionals, an on-line newsletter and a camp for children with ASD and related communication disorders.

Autism Spectrum Disorders Support Center

RIDE Office of Special Needs
255 Westminster Street
Providence, RI 02903
222-4600x2014
fax: 222-6030
e-mail: sconstable@ritap.org
Director: Sue Constable

Parent Support Network of Rhode Island

400 Warwick Avenue, Suite 12
Warwick, RI 02888
467-6855 or (800) 483-8844

PSN is a statewide organization of families supporting families with children and youth who are at risk for or who have behavioral and/or emotional challenges. They provide support groups, telephone support, educational events, one-to-one assistance with advocacy and/or literature concerning education, mental health, parenting a child with special emotional or behavioral needs, juvenile justice, and substance abuse case support. Meetings are held in various areas throughout the state. Services are also available in Spanish.

Child Adolescent Service System Program (CASSP)

CASSP is a network of 8 Local Coordinating Councils (LCC s) that bring together parent advocates, children’s service agencies and other community partners concerned with the needs of children and their families. CASSP is available statewide to families who have children ages birth to 21 who have a serious emotional or behavioral challenge, have had or have the potential to have the disability for more than one year and are already in or at risk for out-of-home placement. The goal of CASSP is to prevent families from becoming separated and to maintain children in their home communities. To make a referral to CASSP, call the LCC serving your area:

Providence 401-421-6993	Metro West (<i>Cranston, Johnston, Foster, Gloucester, North Providence, Smithfield and Scituate</i>) 401-784-3600
Pawtucket/ Central Falls 401-722-5573 x252	Washington County (<i>Narragansett, New Shoreham, North Kingstown, South Kingstown, Westerly, Exeter & Chariho</i>) 401-789-1166
East Bay (<i>Barrington, Bristol, Warren and East Providence</i>) 401-431-9870 x 208	Northern Rhode Island (<i>Woonsocket, North Smithfield, Burriville, Cumberland and Lincoln</i>) 401-765-5200
Newport (<i>Newport, Middletown, Jamestown, Portsmouth, Tiverton and Little Compton</i>) 401-848-6363	
Kent County (<i>Warwick, West Warwick, Coventry, East Greenwich and West Greenwich</i>) 401-732-5656	

Comprehensive Emergency Services (CES)

CES is a statewide, community-based program for families in crisis. CES provides short-term case management services and counseling and educational services to meet the emergency needs of children and their families. The CES program is designed to stabilize family conflict and prevent child abuse and out-of-home placements.
Contacts by region:

- John Hope Settlement House, 7 Thomas Whitten Way, Providence, RI 02903, 455-2330
- Family Services, 153 Summer Street, Providence, RI 02903, 331-2900
- Child and Family Services of Newport, 24 School Street, Newport, RI 02840, 849-2300
- South Shore Community Mental Health Center, 55 Cherry Lane, Wakefield, RI 02879, 789-1367
- Family Resources, 245 Main Street, Woonsocket, RI 02895, 766-0900
- Cranston Community Action, 311 Doric Avenue, Cranston, RI 02910, 461-4640
- Community Counseling Center, 160 Beechwood Avenue, Pawtucket, RI 02860, 722-6053

Children’s Intensive Services (CIS)

Children’s Intensive Services Program provides children with severe behavioral health problems comprehensive, home- and community-based behavioral health services. This includes clinical care and case management services. The intent of the program, in addition to helping children and their families, is to encourage community-based treatment in place of treatment in more restrictive environments, such as inpatient psychiatric hospitalizations or residential care. The CIS Program is available for children with Medicaid coverage only. For children with commercial coverage, there is another program, Child and Family Intensive Treatment Services that have similar benefits. *Regional contacts:*

Child and Family Services of Newport County 848-4199

Community Counseling Center 729-8701

East Bay Mental Health Center 431-9870

Family Service of Rhode Island 331-1350 x 104 or 105

The Kent Center for Human and Organizational Development 732-5656

Mental Health Services 729-8701

Newport County Community Mental Health Center 848-6363 x120

Northern Rhode Island Community Services 235-7403

The Providence Center 276-4020

South Shore Mental Health Center 789-1367 x5300

St. Mary’s Home for Children 784-3530

Dual Sensory Impairment Project

Paul V. Sherlock Center on Disabilities

Rhode Island College

600 Mount Pleasant Ave.

Providence, RI 02908

401-456-8072

The *Dual Sensory Impairment Project* gives families who have children with vision and hearing loss resources to make informed choices. The Project also includes a free assistive technology and toy lending library. The project staff work with schools and also provide direct family support using Parent Consultants. Serves children from birth through age 21.

Moms Club

Moms Club are support groups for women who stay home part- or full- time with their children.

For more information, call Jodi Chapdelaine at 508-853-2796.

Pediatric Practices Serving Children with Special Needs

The Pediatric Practice Enhancement Project places trained parent consultants in primary and specialty care practices that serve a high percentage of children and youth with special health care needs. The role of the parent consultant is to create a link between the family, the pediatric practice and the community - including CEDARR Family Centers, Early Intervention and other community services. Parent consultants have assisted physicians in providing a coordinated, comprehensive medical home and help to ensure family-centered practices throughout the special needs service delivery system. Participating practices include:

Aquidneck Medical Associates (Newport) 847-2290

Dr. Cheryl Flynn (Lincoln) 333-1656

Community Asthma Program (Providence) 444-3092

Memorial Hospital, Pediatric Primary Care Center (Pawtucket) 729-2582

Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Woman & Infants (Providence) 274-1100

Park Pediatrics, Inc. (Cranston) 274-6575

Rainbow Pediatrics, Hasbro Children’s Hospital (Providence) 444-3734
South County Pediatrics Group,Inc. (Wakefield) 789-6492
Thundermist Health Center (Woonsocket) 767-4100
Ventilator Integration Program (Providence) 444-5685
Wood River Health Services (Hope Valley) 539-0228

Early Childhood Programs

Early Head Start

Early Head Start is a national program that provides comprehensive child development services to families with children under 3 and to pregnant women. The purpose of Early Head Start is to: enhance children's physical, social, emotional and cognitive development; enable parents to be better caregivers and teachers to their children; and to help parents meet their own goals, including that of economic independence.

Pregnant women or families with children from birth to three years of age whose income is below 100% of the federal poverty level (FPL) income guidelines may be eligible. Up to 10% of the enrollment can be families with income over 100% of the FPL. And at least 10% of enrollment in each program must be made available to children with disabilities. Early Head Start services are free to families. If parents choose to enroll their children in childcare that extends outside of the Early Head Start hours, there may be fees based on their income.

Head Start

Head Start is a national program that provides comprehensive child developmental services to preschool children ages 3-5 and social services for their families. Specific services for children in Head Start focus on: education, social and emotional development, physical and mental health, and nutrition.

Families of children ages 3-5 whose income is below 100% of the FPL may be eligible. Up to 10% of the enrollment can be families with income over 100% of the FPL. And at least 10% of enrollment in each program must be made available to children with disabilities. Head Start services are free to families.

CHILD, Inc. 160 Draper Avenue Warwick 737-0403	Providence 272-1760
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Children's Friend and Service
153 Summer Street
Providence 276-4300

Comprehensive Community Action Program
848 Atwood Avenue
Cranston 943-5160

East Bay Community Action/Head Start
654 Green End Avenue
Middletown 846-5454
(programs in Newport, Middletown, Warren, and East Providence)

Providence Head Start
20 Almy Street

South County Community Action Program
1080 Kingstown Road
PO Box 3738
Wakefield 789-3016

Tri-Town Community Action Agency
1126 Hartford Avenue
Johnston 351-2750 x1126

Woonsocket Head Start and Day Care
204 Warwick Street
Woonsocket 769-1850

Comprehensive Child Care Services

Rhode Island Department of Human Services
Comprehensive Child Care Services
600 New London Avenue
Cranston, RI 02920
462-6875 -- call for local program sites
www.dhs.ri.gov

The Comprehensive Child Care Services provides childcare services to families who have children age 3 through entry into kindergarten and who receive a Department of Human Services’ subsidy for childcare. Services include: assessment and individualized planning regarding children’s health and/or mental health issues, early childhood education, support for children with disabilities, nutrition and family education.

Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY)

(supported by RIPIN)
727-4144 or (800) 464-3399 - toll free in RI only
State Director : Mary Doyle 729-6509
HIPPY is a home visiting program for parents of children 3-5 years of age. It provides support for the development of school readiness skills and gives parents opportunities to meet other parents with children of the same age. HIPPY is in 7 communities: Burrillville, Central Falls, Cumberland, Johnston, North Smithfield, Pawtucket and Providence. There is no fee for participation.

Parents As Teachers (PAT)

(supported by RIPIN)
727-4144 or (800) 464-3399 - toll free in RI only

The *Parents As Teachers* Program is designed to provide parents of children from before birth to age 5, the information and support they need to give their children the best possible start in life. Parent As Teachers offers regularly scheduled home visits by certified parent educators. There is no fee for participation. Parents As Teachers has programs in 19 communities, in 11 school districts and at 17 community-based agencies.

Project Early Start

Project Early Start is a comprehensive program for families with children from birth to three years old who are at risk for developmental, health and social problems. The project provides information on parenting, child development, home management and family interaction skills. Parenting groups and play groups are also available. Anyone can refer a family to the program. To be eligible, a family’s income must be below 250% of the federal poverty level. Project Early Start is coordinated by the Department of Children, Youth and Families who has contracts with the following agencies to provide services:

Children’s Friend and Service
153 Summer Street, Providence 331-2900

Child and Family Service of Newport County
24 School Street, Newport 849-2300

The Providence Center
520 Hope Street, Providence 276-4000

Child Inc., 160 Draper Street, Warwick, 732-5200

Socio Economic Development Center
620 Potters Avenue, Providence
941-8422

Family Resources, 245 Main Street, Woonsocket,
766-0900

The Providence Center, Early Childhood Institute
Solutions for the Behavioral and Emotional Health of Young Children

520 Hope Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02906
276-4137 or (800) 456-0300

www.providencecenter.org

The Providence Center's Early Childhood Institute offers the following services for children from birth to age 5:

- ◆ Classroom, office, and community-based treatment for children under 5 who have behaviors that seriously disrupt their homes and child care settings. Treatment includes working with parents and other caregivers.
- ◆ Parent-child assessment and reunification activities.
- ◆ Training and consultation to child care providers about: understanding social/emotional development, effective intervention strategies, environmental structure, and professional relationships; Trainings may be developed to meet the specific needs of a child care provider.
- ◆ Training for other providers, such as, mental health professionals, health care providers, child care administrators, and early childhood teachers.
- ◆ Parent education workshops

Training

The **Department of Human Services** has contracted with the **Paul V. Sherlock Center on Disabilities**, located at Rhode Island College, to provide training and technical assistance to the RI Early Intervention system and other DHS programs for children with special health care needs. On-going training activities include a four day training series for all new Early Intervention staff, a monthly seminar for EI supervisors, and additional topical trainings and individual technical assistance as needs are identified by service providers, supervisors, and directors. For more information contact Maureen Whelan at 456-4735 or mwhelan@ric.edu.

Child Care Support Network (CCSN)

RI Department of Health
3 Capitol Hill
Providence, RI
222-5372 or 222-5949

CCSN provides on-site technical assistance to child care providers to improve childcare quality for young children. If you have a child with special needs and would like to place him/her in a child care setting, CCSN can provide training and technical assistance to the child care provider to meet your child's unique needs. These services are offered statewide.

Childspan

Independence Square
500 Prospect Street
Pawtucket, RI 02860
729-0765
www.childspan.net
email: childspan@childspan.net

Childspan is a Rhode Island organization that provides professional development opportunities for child care and education providers who serve children from birth through age 16.

The Autism Project of Rhode Island

51 Sockanosset Crossroads, Suite A
Cranston, RI 02920
785-2666
www.theautismproject.org
See page 17 for description.

Rhode Island Parent Information Network (RIPIN)

175 Main Street
Pawtucket, RI 02860
727-4144 or (800) 464-3399 - toll free in RI only
TDD: 727-4151
www.ripin.org
See page 16 for description.

Other

RI Medical Assistance Program

There are four ways that children may become eligible for Medical Assistance coverage. (1) Supplemental Security Income (SSI), (2) Katie Beckett (3) Adoption subsidy through DCYF or (4) RIte Care or RIte Share. Each of these ways has a different application process.

Supplemental Security Income (SSI)- If a child is eligible for SSI benefits because of a disability or the parents' income, then that child is also eligible to receive Medical Assistance. For more information, please call (800) 772-1213.

Katie Beckett - Katie Beckett is an eligibility provision of the Medical Assistance Program that provides Medical Assistance coverage to certain children up to age 19 with long-term disabilities or complex medical needs. Children who may be eligible must meet a specific level of care criteria. The 'level of care' criteria means that the child is in need of services such as those typically provided in a hospital, skilled nursing facility, or institutional care facility for the mentally retarded (ICFMR). Also, the child's income and resources, not their parents', are used to determine eligibility. For more information, please call the DHS Info Line at 462-5300.

Adoption Subsidy – Children in substitute care (foster care) can also get Medical Assistance coverage. For more information, please call Adoption Services at DCYF : 254-7021.

RIte Care Health Insurance - RIte Care is Rhode Island's Medicaid managed care program that provides health insurance to families in the Family Independence Program and eligible uninsured pregnant women, parents and children up to age 19. RIte Care enrollees receive their health care through one of three participating health plans: Neighborhood Health Plan of RI; United Healthcare of New England; and Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Rhode Island. Eligibility for RIte Care is based on income and family size. For more information, please call the DHS Info Line at 462-5300 or check www.dhs.ri.gov

RIte Share- RIte Share is Rhode Island's premium assistance program that helps families obtain health coverage through their employer's health insurance plan. If eligible, RIte Share will pay all or part of the employee's share of monthly premiums for family coverage. RIte Share also pays for co-payments in the employer's health insurance plan. Applicants may be eligible for RIte Share if they are eligible for Medical Assistance and if their employer offers an approved health plan. Eligibility and the application process is similar to RIte Care's. Please call the DHS Info Line for more information: 462-5300.

Resources at Hasbro Children's Hospital and other Lifespan hospitals

Frequent Flyers is a service available for children with special health care needs & their families. The purpose of *Frequent Flyers* is to facilitate admission to the hospital for children with frequent admissions. Any family with a child who is a frequent user of a Lifespan hospital (RI Hospital, Hasbro Children's Hospital, Miriam Hospital, Bradley Hospital and Newport Hospital) can access this service. *Frequent Flyers* is a database that families can add to. The database consists of a summary of the child's medical condition, medications and allergies, common presenting problems and how they are managed. It also includes the family's comments, child's photo, primary and specialty physicians, home care providers and emergency contacts. Parents are provided with a secure home-based access to their child's database and can email or send in updates. For more information, contact the Family Center at Hasbro Children's Hospital: 444-3201.

Max All Star Kids is a program for families who have a child with a chronic and/or life-threatening medical condition. The goals of this program are to relieve pain and distressing symptoms and provide services that enhance the comfort and quality of life for the child and family. For more information, contact the Hasbro Children's Hospital Foundation at 444-4000.

The Lending Library at Hasbro Children's Hospital offers a lending library free to all Hasbro Children's Hospital patients and their parents. The general public is also welcome to use the Family Resource Center for a small annual fee. Resources for families and children include books, audio tapes, videos and computer searches of online medical databases. Topics include: parenting children with special needs, general parenting, medical conditions, hospitalization, mental health and bereavement. The library is located at the Hospital's Family Resource Center, first floor, room 118 and is open Monday - Friday, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm. If you need assistance, call the center to make an appointment for a staff member to be on hand. Family Resource Center 444-6090.

Organizations That Grant Wishes To Children

The Impossible Dream

575 Centerville Road, Warwick
401-823-5566

The Impossible Dream makes dreams possible for chronically-ill children. Some dreams have included trips to theme parks, specialized medical equipment or recreational toys. The special Impossible Dream playground has fully integrated playground equipment for both physically-challenged and able-bodied children. The playground is open to the public free of charge everyday (except holidays and holiday weekends) from April-October, from 10 am- 3 pm.

A Wish Come True

1010 Warwick Avenue, Warwick
401-781-9199

This organization is dedicated to granting wishes to children between the ages 3-18 that have life-threatening illnesses. Wishes granted have included puppies, bikes, computers, trips, meetings with celebrities, and shopping sprees.

Make a Wish Foundation of RI

744 Park Avenue, Cranston
fax 401-781-9475
rhodeis@wish.org

This organization grants wishes to RI children between the ages of 2½ and 18 that have life-threatening medical conditions or terminal illnesses.

Paul V. Sherlock Center on Disabilities

Rhode Island College
600 Mount Pleasant Avenue
Providence, RI 02908
456-8072 voice
456-8773 TT

www.sherlockcenter.org

The Paul V. Sherlock Center is a University Center for Excellence in Disability. Its mission is to support membership of individuals with disabilities in school, work, and society. Its four core functions are: interdisciplinary training, community outreach and service, dissemination of information, and research.

Rhode Island Disability Law Center, Inc.

349 Eddy Street
Providence, RI 02903
831-3150 or (800)733-5332
831-5335 TDY

Provides free legal assistance for persons with developmental disabilities and their families. Special education and legal rights information and referral services are available.

Assistive Technology Access Partnership (ATAP)

Children and Youth Resource Center at the East Bay Collaborative
317 Market St., Warren, R.I. 02885
245-4998 x 302

www.ebecri.org

www.atap.state.ri.us

ATAP is a coordinating agency that works in partnership with other assistive technology agencies to provide information about devices that assist people with disabilities to function better at home, work, school or in the community. ATAP also advocates for laws and policies that help people function better at home, work, in school or in the community.

TechAccess of Rhode Island

110 Jefferson Boulevard, Suite 1
Warwick, RI 02888
463-0202 or (800)916-8324

www.techaccess-ri.org

A private, not-for-profit resource center that serves people with disabilities that are interested in assistive technology. Information about products, funding, and services are available at no charge. Referral services are available.

Options for Working Parents

Commerce Center, 30 Exchange Terrace
Providence, RI 02903
272-7510

www.optionsforworkingparents.com

Options for Working Parents helps parents looking for childcare. This organization has a statewide computerized file of licensed child care centers, family child care homes, nursery schools, summer camps, and after school programs. *Options* refers parents to child care providers, based on the type of care needed, the location of the facility, and any special amenities needed for the child. There is no fee for this service.

Publications

A Parent's Guide to the Special Education Regulations,
Rhode Island Parent Guide to Assistive Technology,
RI Parents Information Network, www.ripin.org or 727-1411 x 150.

Transition from Early Intervention: A Family Guide,
Paul Sherlock Center on Disabilities, Rhode Island College, 456-8072.

Rhode Island Summer Recreation Guide, RI Developmental Disabilities Council,
www.riddc.org or 737-1238.

Rhode Island Directory of Human Service and Government Agencies, Crossroads,
www.crossroads.org or 521-2255.

Rhode Island Family Guide 2004, www.rifamilyguide.com or 247-0850.

Rhode Island Government Owner's Manual, Secretary of State, 222-2357.

Rhode Island Resource Guide for Families of Children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing
RI Department of Health 222-5960

Rhode Island Resource Guide of Families of Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders
RI Department of Health 222-5960

Organizations

Autism Project of Rhode Island
785-2666

Autism Society of RI
738-8922

Brain Injury Association of RI
461-6599

CHADD of RI
Children and Adults with Attention Deficit Disorder
943-9399

Child Abuse Hotline
800-742-4453

Child Advocates Office
222-6650

Down Syndrome Society of RI
463-5751

Families and Disabilities News
www.isi.ukans.edu

Family Health Information Line, RI Department of Health
Information on WIC, Immunizations, Lead Poisoning Prevention, Adolescent Health and Family Planning.
www.health.ri.gov
(800)942-7434

Family Village for families with children with special needs
www.familyvillage.wisc.edu/web sites.html

Family Voices
www.familyvoices.org
727-4144 x 158

Mental Health Association of RI
726-2285

Muscular Dystrophy Association
732-1910

NAMI RI
National Alliance of the Mentally Ill
331-3060

National Information Center for Children and Youth with Disabilities
www.nichcy.org

National Organization for Rare Disorders
www.rarediseases.org
203-744-0100 (phone)

Parent Advocacy Coalition for Educational Rights
www.pacer.org

RI Community Food Bank
www.rifoodbank.org
942-MEAL (6325)

Office of Special Populations
RI Department of Education
www.ridoe.net
general info: 222-3505

RI Department of Human Services, DHS Info Line
Information on Food Stamps, Family Independence Program, Child Care, Medical Assistance & RIte Care.
www.dhs.ri.gov
462-5300

RI Developmental Disabilities Council
www.riddc.org
737-1238

RI Donation Exchange Program
831-5511

RI Parent Information Network (RIPIN)
www.ripin.org
727-4144 or (800) 464-3399

Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Office of Rehabilitation Services, DHS
www.ors.ri.gov/SBVI.htm
222-2300

United Cerebral Palsy of RI
728-1800

Very Special Arts of RI
725-0247

VNA of RI
Visiting Nurse Association
335-2400



Rhode Island Department of Human Services

Center for Child and Family Health

600 New London Avenue

Cranston, Rhode Island 02920

401-462-5300

www.dhs.ri.gov

6/06